

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Their 'spin' (as
played on their
voice mail greeting)
that the subject is
Prisoners of War
during the Vietnam
conflict is absurd

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

The Fox affiliate
owned by the
Sinclair Group
doesn't even have
its own news
department (it rents
the local ABC
affiliates people-,
yet Sinclair V-P
Mark Hyman claims
there is such "news
value" to this
documentary that
they will be running

it this close to the election. Pro-Kerry documentaries are played in theatres (non-broadcast).

Sinclair's pathetic attempts to by-pass the local control necessary for stations to comply with FCC rules regarding the public interest, convenience and necessity are both brazen and contemptible.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.